

REPORT  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

TO THE  
  
WILTON  
URBAN SANITARY  
AUTHORITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st. DEC.  
1913.

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WILTON :  
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## REPORT.

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GENTLEMEN,

There has been no change in the Natural or Social conditions of the district since I last described them, and the Factories and other industrial establishments in the town have been generally prosperous and fully employed during the year.

The census of 1911 showed that the population was 2124; of these 1157 were single persons, 830 were married, and 137 were widowed. Making the same emigrant allowance that had prevailed during the last ten years the population at Midsummer, 1913, was 2110, but estimated by the natural increment due to the excess of births over deaths, the population had risen to 2148.

The Water from the Corporation Water Works is supplied to 555 houses, is of excellent quality and is abundant in quantity. It was examined 4 times and the analysis was practically the same on each occasion. During the year the Waterworks have been enlarged and partly rebuilt, and two new pumps driven by a gas engine have been erected, with a suction gas generator in an adjoining chamber. Working at 52 revolutions per minute these pumps are estimated to deliver 7800 gallons per hour, so that the 40,000 gallons required for health purposes is well within the powers of the pumps to deliver if waste is kept within reasonable bounds. The leakage

from the mains and service pipes was found by the Water Works Committee to be occasionally very considerable, and on two separate inspections it occurred in 23 per cent of the houses examined. One of the most serious leaks discovered by the Inspector employed by the committee, was due to the fracture of a two inch pipe supplying a fire hydrant. It was completely broken by heavy traffic and was wasting an enormous quantity of water daily(1), and rendering one hydrant useless in case of fire. Certain matters relating to the Water supply formed the subject of a special report(2), and an assistant to the engineer has since been appointed, so that pumping is carried out on Sunday afternoons for an adequate time to leave the Reservoir supplied.

The Rivers and Streams are kept free from pollution and the banks in good order by the Fishing Clubs to whom they are leased. A complaint was made as to the stagnant character of a stream behind Fancy Row, and on examination this was found to be due to the silting up of sand in the channel under the Bridge in North Street, a matter which was attended to by the Sanitary Inspector.

Every house within reach of the Sewers has W.C. accommodation with proper flushing arrangements, and in no instance is a soil pan connected to a service pipe without an intercepting cistern.

The Scavenging during 1913 was satisfactorily performed, and 542 loads of refuse were removed from 554 houses. Disinfectants were supplied wherever necessary.

The Inspection under the Housing Act has been continued and 127 houses have been inspected for the purposes of § 17 of the 1909 Act. In 8 cases defects of a character injurious to health were found but these were remedied in each instance without applying for a closing order. No house had to be compulsorily demolished. Six new houses of an excellent character for occupation by the artisan classes have been built during the year, and at the present time there is no lack of house accommodation, nor are there any dwellings so bad as to call for immediate demolition.

(1) The waste from this leak was equal to almost one hour's pumping each day

(2) See Appendix A.



The Churchyards are provisionally closed, and are in good sanitary order. The Cemetery is still sufficient for present needs.

There are no cellar dwellings, Common Lodging Houses, or Offensive Trades within the District. There are two registered Slaughter Houses which the Inspector has visited.

Twenty five Factories, Workshops and Workplaces have been inspected during the year and nine insanitary conditions remedied. The regulations in regard to limewashing have been observed. Very important structural improvements have been carried out at the Wilton Royal Carpet Factory. Three Chimneys are under observation for smoke nuisances.

The requirements of the Dairies and Cowsheds Order have been observed in six dairies registered in the District. Twenty four inspections were made, ten being in milking time. In five cases limewashing was carried out and in two cases structural repairs were necessary.

The Teachers of Elementary Schools have from time to time furnished reports of all cases of absence for suspicious illness. In general the school Medical Officer keeps them under observation and grants a closing order in cases of outbreaks of infectious disease.

The water supply of various schools has been inspected this year and was found good.

The Inspection of Food and Drugs is systematically carried out by an Officer appointed for the purpose by the County Council, and no samples of a deleterious nature have been brought to me for examination.

No case of Tuberculosis among cattle has been notified this year either locally or by the London County Council under their General Powers Act 1909.

The Bye-laws relating to new buildings, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Slaughter houses, &c., are observed or enforced.

There was no case of overcrowding detected in any of the houses inspected.

The Sanitary Inspector's report annexed shows the work done in his department.

The Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases occurring in the five adjoining Sanitary Districts (Salisbury Urban and Rural, Wilton Urban and Rural, and Amesbury) has been in full operation during the year. Besides administration accommodation it has 44 available beds; 30 for Scarlatina, 10 for Diphtheria, and 4 for observation. The Smallpox Hospital on Combe Down has not been opened during the year, but it remains in readiness should it be wanted.

The County Council have made Dispensary and Domiciliary arrangements for the treatment of cases of Tuberculosis, and these are open to all who wish to avail themselves of them, whether they are insured persons or not. Sanatorium accommodation is available for a limited number of insured persons suffering from Tuberculosis at King Edward VII Sanatorium, Ipswich; and for others within subscribing districts at the Winsley Sanatorium. At the Wilton Union Workhouse there is one male and one female ward for Tuberculosis.

In all doubtful cases of Tuberculosis the sputum has been stained, or other tests applied. Seven cases were notified, three pulmonary, and four of other kinds. In cases of suspicious sore throat swabs were taken and bacteriologically examined, but in no case this year was the bacillus of Diphtheria found.

No case of Scarlatina, Diphtheria or other zymotic disease has been notified this year, consequently it was not necessary to send any case to the Joint Infectious Hospital.

The Births registered were 39, viz., 21 of males and 18 of females. There was no illegitimate birth registered. The Birthrate is 18·1 per thousand, rather above the average of the last five years, which was 16·2.

The number of deaths within the District was 27, giving a crude death rate of 12·5 per thousand. Five Wilton persons died in the Workhouse, Asylum or other institution, and have been transferred by the Registrar General to the

Wilton lists, making 32 deaths in all. The corrected death rate is consequently raised in this way to 14·8 per thousand, although that number did not die in Wilton. The average age of death was 64 years. One reached the age of 100, and another that of 94. One half of those who died had reached the age of 70, and one fourth that of 80 years. There were only four deaths under the age of 40.

Only one death occurred under the age of one year, giving an Infantile Mortality of 25 per 1000 births registered; the average rate of the last five years being 65.

One death was registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis within this district, and one was transferred from the registration district of the Whiddon Down Sanatorium, Drewsteignton. Seven deaths occurred from Cancer, and seven from Organic Heart Disease.

The Administration of the Midwives Act is under the care of the County Medical Officer of Health. No case of Puerperal septicæmia or ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during the year.

In the Sanitary Inspector's Department 27 Statutory and 34 Informal Notices were served, and one only of these is outstanding.

In no case has it been necessary to resort to legal proceedings.

I append the usual tables of statistics.

CHARLES R. STRATON,

Lic. San. Sci. Durh.,

Medical Officer of Health.



## APPENDIX A.

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Special Report on Water Supply by the  
M.O.H. to the Wilton Urban Sanitary Authority.

*10th. October, 1913.*

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“In consequence of a complaint that the reservoir had been allowed to overflow, I have inspected the pumping station, and beg to report; I find that no meter or stroke-enumerator by which the quantity of water pumped is automatically recorded has been adjusted to the new pumps, and in its absence it is impossible to tell whether the quantity pumped has afforded a daily supply sufficient for health, or to what extent there has been pumping to waste. There exists an overflow pipe to indicate when the reservoir is filled to the proper level, but it is so inconspicuously placed that its indications are unobserved, and the repeated overflow shows that they have been disregarded. In answer to this the engineer says that he has difficulty in keeping the stroke of the engine sufficiently slow to prevent overflow, as the pumps act too quickly. If that is the case the addition of a lower gear would obviate this difficulty unless it can be otherwise overcome. It has always been the rule that under no circumstances except in case of fire should the low level main drawing the bottom of the reservoir be turned on. I find that it has recently become the practice on Sundays to fill the reservoir in the middle of the day and connect the lower main to the town before the engineer left work. The water was then drawn until the reservoir was completely emptied. I cannot but regard this course as certain to lead to disaster. If a fire occurred while the engineer was absent and the reserve in the reservoir was exhausted, the Fire Brigade would be absolutely powerless to check its spread. If there is to be no Sunday pumping after



the middle of the day, it would be better to warn people who have no storage cisterns to fill their water cans rather than tamper with what is of the first importance in case of fire. It has been proposed to enlarge the reservoir so as to neutralise any loss from underground leaks in the service pipes, and thus render their repair unnecessary. I would again point out that with an intermittent system of water supply, every leak is a dangerous entrance as well as a wasteful exit. There is no doubt that the practice of pumping directly into the mains, instead of letting them fill by gravitation, is much more trying to the joints of the service pipes, and the throb transmitted by each stroke of the engine tends to make and increase the leakage. There can be no objection to any increase in the height of the reservoir if leaks are abolished. I would therefore respectfully ask the Council (1) to provide a meter or stroke enumerator, so that it might be shown by automatic record that the daily supply was (a) sufficient for health and (b) not wastefully in excess of the normal amount; (2) to keep the reserve water for fire untouched; (3) to prevent overflow by rendering it impossible to overlook the indications of the tell-tale pipe; (4) to continue the work being done of detecting and repairing underground leaks; (5) to provide a lower driving gear if the Council consider it necessary."

TABLE I.—WILTON URBAN DISTRICT.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and previous years.*

Year	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett deaths belonging to the District.		
		Un-corrected number	Nett	Registered in the District.		of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages.
								Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number
1908	2344		35	29	12.3			1	28	
1909	2355		36	25	10.6			2	55	
1910	2371		43	27	11.3			1	23	
1911	2124	39	40	21	9.8			5	125	23
1912	2141	30	31	22	10.2	1	3	3	94	28
							6			10.8
										13
1913	2148	39	39	27	12.5		5	1	25	32
										14.8

Area of District in acres (land and inland water)	{ 1615	Total population at all ages	{ 2124	At Census 1911
		Number of inhabited houses		
		Average number of persons per house 3.84		

TABLE II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913,  
in the Wilton Urban District.

Cases Notified.								
Notifiable Diseases.	At all ages.	At ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3				1	2		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4			1	1	2		
Totals	7			1	2	4		

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.	}	Isolation Hospital at Stratford-Sub-Castle; outside; by five Joint Authorities.
		Small pox Hospital at Combe;



TABLE III—Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1913, in the Wilton Urban District

Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents " whether occurring within or without the District.										
CAUSES OF DEATH		All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
All causes { Certified ...		31								
{ Uncertified...		1						1		
Influenza	...	1							1	
Phthisis	...	2					1	1	3	4
Cancer, malignant disease		7								6
Organic Heart Disease ..		7				1				2
Bronchitis	...	2								
Nephritis & Bright's Disease		1							1	
Congenital Debility and										
Malformation, including										
Premature Birth	...	1	1							
Other defined Diseases ..		10							3	7
		32	1			1	1	2	8	19

TABLE IV.—*INFANT MORTALITY in Wilton Urban District.*

1913. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages Under One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month.	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under one year
All causes { Certified Uncertified								
Measles ... ..								
Pneumonia (all forms) ...								
Congenital Malformations								
Premature Birth ...	...	...	1	...	1	...		1
			1		1			1

<p>Nett Births in the year</p>	<p>{ Legitimate 39. Illegitimate 0.</p>	<p>Nett Deaths in the year of</p>	<p>{ Legitimate infants 1. Illegitimate infants 0.</p>

## URBAN DISTRICT OF WILTON.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—W. W. H. Musselwhite, Wilton, Salisbury.

Whether Whole Time devoted to Duties of Sanitary Inspector or not—  
Part time.

What Other Appointments held—Borough Surveyor, Water Works, Gas Repairs and Rate Collector.

Date of last Re-appointment—March 26, 1913.

### *Summary of Work Done in Sanitary Inspector's Department,*

*During year ending 31st. December, 1913.*

#### *Prevention of Infectious Disease Under Direction of Medical Officer of Health.*

No. of Cases inquired into	...	..	9
No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed	...		6
No. of Patients removed to Hospital	...		Nil
Lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c. disinfected or destroyed	..	..	Nil

#### *Houses—*

No. Inspected under Housing Act	..	127
No. erected	...	6
No. made fit for habitation	...	3
No. closed as unfit for habitation	...	Nil
No. cleansed and Limewashed	...	30

#### *House Drains—*

No. Laid or Re-laid	...	6
No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated	...	27
No. of Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	14
No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified...	...	12
No. of Dumbwells Rectified	..	Nil

#### *Water Closets—*

No. of additional W.C.'s provided	...	12
No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns	...	27
*No. of W.C.'s without Flush Cisterns in district (Pails used for flushing)		2
*No. of W.C.'s with Flush Cisterns in district	...	540

\*Approximate Number.



*Privies and Ashpits—*

No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets	...	Nil
No. converted into Pail-Closets	.. ..	"
No. Repaired	.. ..	"
*No. of Privies in District	... ..	11
*No. of Pail Closets in district	... ..	13

*Scavenging—*

Total number of houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	... ..	554
Total No. of Portable Receptacles cleansed	..	
Disinfectants used where necessary.		
Total No. of Loads of Ashes and Refuse Removed		542
No. of New Dust Receptacles provided	..	
Not provided by the Authority.		

*Smoke Nuisances—*

No. under Observation	... ..	3
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*Water Supply—*

No. of Wells Sunk	.. ...	Nil
No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	"
No. of Wells closed as polluted	.. ..	"
No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year)	... ..	555
No. of Samples taken for Analysis	... ..	4
No. of Samples Condemned	.. ..	Nil

*"Dairies and Cowsheds Orders"—*DAIRYMEN, COWKEEPERS, AND PURVEYORS OF MILK.  
(MILK-SELLERS.)

No. in district	... ..	6
No. Registered	... ..	6
No. of inspections of Premises	.. ..	24
No. of inspections during Milking Time	... ..	10
No. of Premises requiring Whitewashing, Cleansing, &c.	... ..	5
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	... ..	5
No. of Premises requiring Structural or Sanitary improvements	.. ...	2
No. in which requirements of Sanitary Authority were carried out	... ..	2

## PREMISES WITH WELL WATER SUPPLY.

No. of	... ..	1
No. of, from which water analysed	... ..	1

## RESULTS OF ANALYSIS.

Good	.. ..	5
Passable	.. ..	1

DAIRYMEN, COWKEEPERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK.  
(BUTTER AND CHEESE MAKERS)

No. in District	...	..	...	6
No. Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	24

*Slaughter Houses—*

No. Registered or Licensed	...	...	...	2
No. Regularly Inspected	...	...	...	2
No. Cleansed and Repaired	..	...	...	2

*Factories and Workshops and Bakehouses—*

No. under Inspection	...	...	...	23
No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector	...	...	...	8
No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances	...	...	...	8
No. employing "Young Persons," &c., reported to Medical Officer of Health	...	..	...	8

*Food—*

(Done by County Officer.)

*Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance—*

No. of cases of Removal on Notice	...	...	...	2
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*Accumulation of Offensive Refuse—*

No. of Removals	...	...	...	3
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*Clerical Work—*

No. of Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	27
No. of Statutory Notices Complied with	...	...	...	26
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding (This is being attended to.)	...	...	...	1
No. of Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	34
No. of Informal Notices Complied with	...	...	...	34
No. of Informal Notices outstanding	..	...	...	Nil